

satisfy both selections. Context is not a sub-category under content, but they are completely independent.

In rejecting the claims, the examiner made reference to Fig. 8 of Shalit. This discussion will therefore refer to Fig. 8. As may be seen in Fig. 8, the second column merely represents a selected branch of the first column. The third column represents a selected branch of the second column, and so forth. Also, the choices in the first column are mutually exclusive. Accordingly, Fig. 8 is merely a convenient way to illustrate a single tree, and the category attributes are not capable of being selected simultaneously. Accordingly, Shalit fails to meet two limitations of the claims under discussion, nor does he even remotely suggest those limitations. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 2 are allowable.

Claims 3-7 were rejected as obvious over the Steppan article in view of Shalit. This rejection is respectfully traverse. Neither reference, nor the combination thereof renders the present claim obvious.

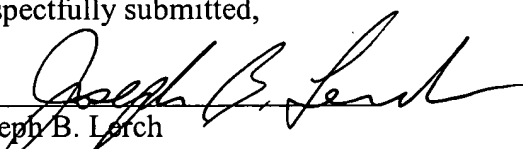
Referring to Fig. 1 of Steppan, it will be appreciated that this is merely another way of illustrating the same thing as Shalit. That is, this is a single tree in which the category attributes are mutually exclusive, and every tree is connected to every other tree or stems from another tree. Accordingly, the combination of Shalit and Steppan would not teach or suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 3, 5 or 6. These claims are therefore believed to be allowable. The remaining claims depend from one of the proceeding claims and are believed to be allowable based upon their dependence from an allowable claim.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place this patent application in condition for allowance. It is therefore earnestly requested that the application, as a whole, receive favorable reconsideration and that all of the claims be allowed as presently constituted. Should there remain any unanswered questions, the examiner is requested to call the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By


Joseph B. Lerch

Registration No.: 26,936

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 753-6237 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant